

into the "Guinness Book of World Records" with the world's largest hamburger, a 3,591-pound whopper, as part of the community's centennial celebration in 1982.

But many more of Rutland's successes never garnered headlines. They were the quiet but meaningful stories of strong families, vibrant businesses, prosperous farms, good kids, and the warmth of citizens who cared about each other.

Rutland is both a wellspring and a repository of what is best about America—old-fashioned values of honesty, decency, hard work, faith, and family. Its foundation is solid, and its people will continue to create a community where dreams are turned into reality.●

FORT ABERCROMBIE

● Mr. DORGAN. Mr. President, one of North Dakota's oldest communities celebrates its anniversary this week. Abercrombie and the nearby fort after which it is named date their origins back 150 years.

Fort Abercrombie is famous for having been the site of one of the most prolonged battles in the American West between Native Americans and U.S. soldiers. Fresh from their triumphs in a Minnesota uprising, Dakota warriors quickly moved to secure their gains by attacking the last military post between the decimated, burning white settlements and the wide open Great Plains.

The defenders of the fort were in a desperate pinch. The fort had no protective palisade and little else in the way of defense, it was several hundred miles from the nearest help, and, worst of all, rifle ammunition was critically low.

For a month the soldiers, and the citizens who had rushed to the protection of the fort, held off Little Crow's warriors. What saved them was the discovery that the metal balls with which the fort's cannon shells were packed were identical to what their rifles required for ammunition.

Fort Abercrombie has a storied history. Military trails radiated out to Fort Wadsworth, Fort Ransom, and Fort Totten. It was here that wagon trains embarked for Montana's gold fields, that the 1870 peace treaty between 900 Dakota and Chippewa delegates was signed, that oxcart caravans from Canada to the Twin Cities overnighted.

Fort Abercrombie is quiet now but houses a handsome State park and historical center. The adjacent community, however, continues to hum. In 1936, an observer called it "an enterprising, live, wide-awake community." That is still an honest description, especially this weekend.

A street dance, military ball, school reunion, parades, wagon train, history tours, and a multitude of other events will fill the days. Although I expect the activity will be as intensive as it was in 1862, it will not be as desperate. In-

stead, it will be a classic festival of small town America—one of remembrance and homecoming, of neighbors and family, of heritage and pride. I send its citizens birthday greetings and a salute for its proud and singular history.●

NATIONAL VETERANS WHEELCHAIR GAMES

● Mr. FEINGOLD. Mr. President, this week Wisconsin is honored to host more than 600 veterans and athletes for the National Veterans Wheelchair Games in Milwaukee. At the largest annual wheelchair sports event in the world, hundreds of veterans who made tremendous sacrifices for our Nation will demonstrate not only their remarkable athletic abilities but also their unmatched courage and determination in the face of adversity.

World-class wheelchair athletes and newly disabled veterans will join together in Milwaukee for 17 competitive events and 2 exhibition events. The National Veterans Wheelchair Games is a great sporting event, and it is also a chance for athletes to develop lasting friendships with other veterans who have faced and overcome similar obstacles.

I thank the Clement J. Zablocki VA Medical Center in Milwaukee and the Wisconsin Chapter of the Paralyzed Veterans of America for hosting the games, as well as the VA officials and volunteers who helped to make these games a reality. More than 3400 Wisconsinites are showing their support by volunteering during the games.

I encourage these athletes and their families to explore their unique and dynamic host city. I hope everyone has the opportunity to experience Milwaukee's wonderful lakefront and sample the outstanding food and drink that Milwaukee is known for.

I know Milwaukee will give a warm welcome to all the competitors and visitors who have come to the city for this week's games. Their competitive spirit and the incredible sacrifices they have made bravely serving our Nation are an inspiration to us all. I hope everyone enjoys what is sure to be an exciting and memorable week.●

HONORING THE LIFE OF JEFFREY ERLANGER

● Mr. FEINGOLD. Mr. President, today I pay tribute to the memory of Jeff Erlanger, an extraordinary person who was a prominent member of the Madison community, a family friend, and an inspiration to me and everyone lucky enough to know him.

To understand what a positive force Jeff was in people's lives, I will quote something he said in an ad he did for Wisconsin Public Television a few years ago: "It doesn't matter what I can't do—what matters is what I can do." Those are words that everyone should live by, but Jeff, who was a quadriplegic, really did live by them.

He never dwelled on the many challenges he faced; instead, he focused on helping others, making tremendous contributions of time and effort to a wide array of organizations.

He served on the Economic Development Commission, as chairman of the Commission on People with Disabilities, and as chairman of the board of the Community Living Alliance, as well as many other positions. Among his accomplishments was his successful push for the accessible taxicab service that exists in Madison today. He also ran for the Madison City Council in 2002. Jeff's commitment to public service says volumes about the kind of person he was and why his passing is such a loss for the Madison community.

Jeff used his personal experience to inspire others, visiting classrooms to talk about living with a disability, and appearing on "Mr. Rogers' Neighborhood" at the age of 10. He became good friends with Fred Rogers, speaking both at Rogers' induction to the Television Academy Hall of Fame and at a memorial service when Rogers passed away in 2003.

Throughout his adulthood, he continued to make life-changing connections with people he met. Incredibly, he saved the life of a Boston woman he was talking with online, calling both AOL and the Boston police after she told him she had cut her wrists but wouldn't tell him what her last name was or where she lived. They tracked the woman down and rushed her to an emergency room. It is just one amazing story from a truly amazing life.

I am proud to say that Jeff was an intern in my office. He was also a dear friend to members of my family. He meant so much to so many people, both those he knew, those he inspired through his appearances, and those he helped through his life of community service. I am deeply saddened by his passing, and my thoughts are with his parents, his family, and his friends. Jeff left behind a wonderful legacy, of hope, enthusiasm, and caring, and that is something everyone who knew him can cherish.●

TRIBUTE TO LIEUTENANT GENERAL EMERSON N. GARDNER JR.

● Ms. MIKULSKI. Mr. President, today I pay tribute to a marine officer from my home State of Maryland, LTG Emerson N. Gardner, Jr., now serving as the Deputy Commandant for Programs and Resources, Headquarters, United States Marine Corps, as he prepares to leave this position for one of even greater importance.

The position of Deputy Commandant for Programs and Resources is one of the most demanding and important jobs within Marine Corps Headquarters. For the past 2 years, as Deputy Commandant, Lieutenant General Gardner has been responsible for planning, programming, budgeting and executing total appropriations in excess of